

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE REQUESTED FILING OF RULE 1.53(B)  
CONTINUATION PATENT APPLICATION BASED ON  
THE FOLLOWING PENDING PRIOR PATENT APPLICATION:

In re Application of: Gregory E. Sancoff et al.  
Serial No.: 09/368,273  
Filing Date: 08/03/99  
Title: SURGICAL SUTURING INSTRUMENT  
AND METHOD OF USE  
Group Art Unit: 3731  
Examiner: G. Jackson  
Attorney's Docket No.: ONUX-4

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Please amend the application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

At page 1, line 5, please insert:

-- Reference To Pending Prior Patent Application

This is a continuation of pending prior application Serial No. 09/368,273 filed 08/03/99 by Gregory E. Sancoff, Frederic P. Field and Douglas A. Fog for SURGICAL SUTURING INSTRUMENT AND METHOD OF USE.

Remarks

As noted in the accompanying REQUEST FOR FILING RULE 1.53(B) CONTINUATION APPLICATION, this is a continuation of pending prior application Serial No. 09/368,273 filed 08/03/99 by Gregory E. Sancoff, Frederic P. Field and Douglas A. Fogg for SURGICAL SUTURING INSTRUMENT AND METHOD OF USE. The above amendment is intended to make this fact of record in the specification of this continuation application.

Respectfully submitted,

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